food and feed safety assessment studies carried out include composition analysis, allergenicity and toxicological studies, and feeding studies on fish, chicken, cows and buffaloes. The environmental safety assessment studies have been carried out on pollen escape out — crossing, aggressiveness and weediness, effect of the gene on non-target organisms, presence of the protein in soil and its effect on soil micro-flora, confirmation of the absence of Terminator Gene and baseline susceptibility studies.

(d) and (e) The Ministry has received a copy of the letter of Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss, former Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare addressed to the Prime Minister concerning impact of Genetically Modified (GM) food crops on human health. The Government of India is following a policy of case by case approval of GM crops. In case, the transgenic crop is not found suitable for release in the environment or human consumption, the product is rejected during the trial stage itself. A final view on the commercialization of GM plants is taken only where there is a clear economic and technical justification for release of the product. The Government is of the view that scientific assessment and not moratorium is the answer to development. Therefore, there is no proposal to ban Bt seeds.

Setting up of cold storage in Tamil Nadu

1894. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps were taken by Government to set up cold storages in Tamil Nadu to store vegetables and fruits during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) To encourage setting up of cold chain facilities and backward linkages in the country, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has a Plan Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure during the Eleventh Plan to provide financial assistance to project proposals received from public/private organizations for cold chain infrastructure development. The scheme envisages financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 50% of the total cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 75% for North Eastern Region and difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs.10.00 crore. The initiatives are aimed at filling the gaps in the supply chain, strengthening of cold chain infrastructure, establishing value addition with infrastructural facilities like sorting, grading, packaging and processing for horticulture including organic produce, marine, dairy poultry, etc. Under this scheme, MFPI has approved 10 cold chain project during 2008-09 in the country out of that one cold chain project has been approved in Tamil Nadu.

Other agencies of the Government like National Horticulture Board (NHB), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and State Government also provide financial assistance for

cold storages under their respective schemes. As per the information available with Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI), Ministry of Agriculture, total number of cold storages in the country as on 31.12.2008 was 5386 having total capacity of 23.66 million MT. In Tamil Nadu, 139 cold storages having total capacity of 0.23 million MT were present as on 31.12.08. State-wise and capacity-wise details are given in the Statement.

Statement

Sector-wise Distribution of cold Storages as on 31/12/2008

Sl. No.	State/UT	Private Sector		Cooperative Sector		Public Sector		Total	Total Capacity in MTs.
		No.	Capacity	No.	Capacity	No.	Capacity	No.	Capacity
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Island (UT)	01	170	00	00	01	40	02	210
2.	Andhra Pradesh	265	860907	11	11598	10	3451	286	875956
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	01	5000	00	00	00	00	01	5000
4.	Assam	19	85948	01	1000	04	1120	24	88068
5.	Bihar	242	1362429	18	77200	00	00	260	1439629
6.	Chandigarh (UT)	05	11216	01	1000	00	00	06	12216
7.	Chhattisgarh	63	286136	01	29	01	41	65	286206
8.	Delhi	76	103250	02	5201	16	17680	94	126131
9.	Gujarat	351	1075148	21	30669	05	6437	377	1112254
10.	Goa	29	7705	00	00	00	00	29	7705
11.	Haryana	233	377319	04	3403	06	11399	243	392121
12.	Himachal Pradesh	09	12896	02	767	07	6195	18	19858
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	15	40689	03	2134	01	46	19	42869
14.	Jharkhand	37	142733	08	27415	00	00	45	170148
15.	Kerala	170	54360	06	1080	11	1690	187	57130
16.	Karnataka	126	405393	18	6689	17	9594	161	421676
17.	Lakshadweep (UT)	00	00	00	00	01	15	01	15
18.	Maharashtra	373	525126	55	25346	32	13724	460	564196

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
19.	Madhya Pradesh	167	692724	20	101348	05	2434	192	796506
20.	Manipur	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
21.	Meghalaya	01	1200	00	00	02	2000	03	3200
22.	Mizoram	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
23.	Nagaland	01	5000	01	1150	00	00	02	6150
24.	Orissa	83	252097	26	55550	00	00	109	307647
25.	Puducherry	02	35	01	50	00	00	03	85
26.	Punjab	402	1298425	18	39092	00	00	420	1337517
27.	Rajasthan	97	310901	09	3832	01	14	107	314747
28.	Sikkim	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
29.	Tamil Nadu	122	224129	13	7562	04	5162	139	236853
30.	Tripura	03	12750	01	5000	07	11700	11	29450
31.	Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal	1501	8770530	87	281480	03	8000	1591	9060010
32.	West Bengal	481	5647259	50	302000	00	00	531	5949259
	TOTAL	4875	22571475	377	990595	134	100742	5386	23662812

*DMI, M/o Agriculture

Setting up of food processing units in Punjab

1895. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received for setting up new food processing units and for the enlargement/improvement of the existing ones in Punjab as on 1 December, 2009, category-wise;

(b) the number out of them which are pending for over one year but less than two years and for over two years, separately, category-wise; and

(c) by when these are likely to be cleared, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs.50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in